

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATIONCOUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORTTOPIC Military Information from Letzling HeathEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 28 May 1952

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 6 May 1952, the camp south of Huetten on the west edge of the Letzling Heath (M 53/Y 52) troop training grounds was heavily occupied. A four-mast radio station was on the north edge of the camp, with about 100 trucks nearby. About 30 tanks were seen in an open shed. Two JS-3 tanks and 4 T-34/85 tanks as well as motor vehicles most of them occupied by officers and personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, stood on the street in the village of Huetten, headed toward Born. Four groups, each with 3 to 4 officers and 6 to 8 MI wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia or tank insignia were seen along the road to Born at intervals of about 500 meters. They were apparently engaged in making sketches of the terrain. 25X1 25X1
2. On 6 May 1952, sentries with red-bordered black epaulets were seen at the large camp in the woods near Born. Motor vehicles seen driving to or from the installation several troop trains, chiefly carrying tanks, had arrived during the past two weeks. The following motor vehicles were seen driving from Haldensleben to Born and back: 25X1
3. On 6 May 1952, the large parking lots west of Camp Born were heavily occupied by 150 to 200 vehicles which mostly parked in the open. No training activity or practices were seen at the camp. (1)
4. On 6 May, there was no activity at the Haldensleben railroad station south of the troop training grounds except for three trucks which loaded billeting equipment from two boxcars. 25X1
5. On 6 May 1952, the barracks installation on the western exit of Hildersleben, south of the troop training grounds, was occupied by a tank unit. Eight T-34/85 tanks were seen in two open sheds. No training activity was noticed. A four-mast radio station was seen close to officers' billets about 200 meters several troop trains, chiefly carrying tanks, had arrived during the past two weeks. The following motor vehicles were seen driving from Haldensleben to Born and back: 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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northeast of the radar set with ears. [ ] this four-mast radio station was not new but had been previously overlooked as it could only be seen from a certain location on the road south of the installation. Motor vehicles seen driving to, or from, the billeting area [ ]

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6. On 6 May, the barracks installation on the northeastern exit of Hillersleben was guarded by a sentry with red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. No training activity was seen in the billeting area. [ ] the training was conducted in the training area north of Hillersleben. The Merseburg-Born road was blocked. Motor vehicles driving to, or from, the installation [ ]

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7. During the period from 28 April to 9 May, there was heavy vehicular traffic to and from the camp in the woods south of Huetten. [ ] the camp was occupied to capacity. Motor vehicles driving to, or from, the camp [ ]

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8. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 126 tents, each mounted on a wooden platform 1 meter high and 4.5 x 4.5 meters long, were seen in the camp in the woods south of Hottendorf on the north edge of the troop training grounds. They were arranged in groups of 32. Between the individual groups there were two temporary administration buildings, about 20 x 50 meters and each with a ramp. There were large clearings between the tents. About 260 trucks, sedans, ambulances and tank trucks were parked there. About 50 to 60 horses were in an enclosure near the camp. As no unloadings had been made in Jaevenitz or Uchtspringe prior to that time, [ ] the troops stationed in the woods camp had arrived via Letzling Heath. (4) On 3 May, [ ] troops were encamped in the woods between Letzlingen and Klueden, southwest of Letzlingen along the road from Letzlingen to Klueden. (5)
9. [ ] the hutment, which consisted of 100 low wooden buildings and was near the road block at Ziemau, had been occupied by artillery units, tank units and infantry units since 21 April. He said that, effective that day, he had been denied access to this camp. (6)
10. No troop movements were noticed in Wolmirstedt (M 53/Y 61) during the period from 28 April through 5 May. (2)
11. [ ] the unloadings made in the area of Haldensleben were terminated on 30 April. [ ] 100 recruits being loaded under the command of a major on the regular passenger train to Magdeburg (M 51/D 69) at the Haldensleben railroad station. These troops, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia had arrived at the railroad station on trucks [ ] The troop train was unloaded in Magdeburg at 6:35 p.m. (2)
12. [ ] no practices or large-scale exercises started in Letzling Heath prior to 5 May. (1)
13. The following trains were unloaded at the Haldensleben railroad station during the period from 20 to 27 April 1952:

At 10:30 p.m. on 20 April. A 120-axle troop train which carried at least 12 T-34 tanks. The tanks left toward Born-Planken.

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At 7 p.m. on 21 April. A tank column consisting of 24 T-34/85 tanks which left toward Born-Planken.

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Between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 22 April. Three trains were unloaded simultaneously. They carried a total of: 12 large radio trucks with trailers; 10 large radio trucks towing generators, and 30 trucks

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all driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets; and 3 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns,

All these vehicles left toward Huetten at about 4 p.m. The unloading of other 57-mm AT guns, 10 model BA-64 armored scout cars

6 armored personnel carriers mounting a 20-mm gun

was also seen

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portion of a train with 24 T-34 tanks was dispatched toward Hillersleben.

At 7 p.m. on 25 April. A train with 70 new, was unloaded. The trucks were guided by a truck which had come from the direction of Born. The trucks were loaded to capacity with troops, some wearing coveralls, and went to a collecting point at a clearing on the Huetten-Neuenhofe road across the woods about 1 km south of Huetten and, from there, were dispatched to the individual camps.

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At 5 p.m. on 26 April. A train with 80 new trucks.

At 5 p.m. on 27 April. A train with 31 trucks and a sidecar motorcycle and with 12 gondola cars with billeting equipment and 180 to 200 men. (7)

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#### Comments.

- (1) The camps in the woods near Born and Huetten were apparently occupied to capacity in early May 1952, chiefly by units of the 7th Gds Tank Div and of the 19th Gds Mecz Div. It is believed that Camp Born is still occupied by elements of the 136th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army and, presumably, by small tank details of the 9th Mecz Div. As at other troop training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany, it is not to be expected that major practices would start immediately after Letzling Heath was occupied as the troops stationed there are still engaged in reconditioning their quarters.
- (2) It is believed that the unloading operations at the Haldensleben and Wolmirstedt railroad stations may have been largely terminated in late April 1952. The motor vehicles seen between Haldensleben and Born belong to the 7th Gds Tank Div, the 19th Gds Mecz Div, engineer units of the Third Shock Army, the 9th Mecz Div and the GOCF.
- (3) The barracks installations on the western and northeastern exit of Hillersleben are still occupied as reported previously. It is believed that a mechanized regiment and at least elements of the 99th Gds How Arty Regt and the 2503d Gds AAA Regt (US) of the 19th Gds Mecz Div are stationed there.
- (4) In June 1951, the hutment south of Hottendorf had been torn down and that the area for the tent camp was chiefly used by units of the 207th Itz Rifle Div.
- (5) No troops were seen there in 1951.
- (6) In November 1951, large sections of the woods were cut at the road block in Zienau and that a camp of temporary barracks buildings would be built there in the spring of 1952.
- (7) The troop trains probably carried chiefly units of the 10th Gds Tank Div the bulk of which moved to Letzling Heath during the period from 15 to 23 April 1952 on about 24 trains.

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The AT guns unloaded on 22 April 1952, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] belong to this division. The radio trucks belong to the 136th  
Cds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army. The bulk of this regiment  
moved from Burg to Letzling Heath by rail during the period from 19  
to 21 April 1952. [REDACTED]

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